

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 18 | Humidity 78%

Partly cloudy. Misty morning

Sensex 57,276 | Nifty 17,110 | Gold 48,229 | Silver 62,580 | Dollar 75.09 | Euro 83.77 | GBP 100.64

CASES DROP BY 30%

CORONAVIRUS

PAGE 2

UNDER THE WEATHER

PAGE 5

As stray dogs were forced shut inside a drain with no openings, animal activists demand redesign of sewers

THE UNDERDOGS

Seven puppies and mother trapped inside

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

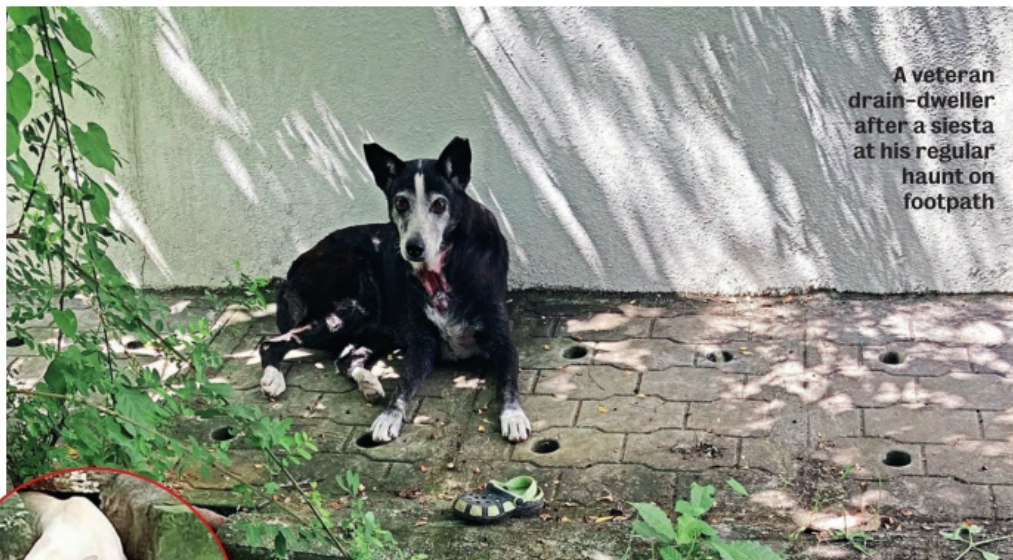
The struggle of voiceless animals in the urban scape continues as we push them to the limits each passing day.

The fact is stray dogs are still traumatised by citizens in neighbourhoods — often pelting stones at the canines, or hurting them using other means, as apparently, according to some citizens, 'dogs are found littering or are barking the entire night'.

Yet another gruesome incident of animal cruelty has come to light, where strays were purposefully blocked in a drain and left to die.

A few days ago, seven puppies and a mother stray were found trapped in a drain in which they were sheltering in Hanumanthappa Layout, Sultanpalya, as some citizens there shut the slab of the drain over the poor creatures, trapping them inside.

The puppies and the mother dog could not come out of the drain and were further traumatised as they were trapped within. As the dogs were crying for help, animal lovers in the area informed animal activists. Soon after, a rescue team from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) East zone arrived at



A veteran drain-dweller after a siesta at his regular haunt on footpath



“BBMP needs to keep drains open at both ends without sealing. One of the slabs should be easily removable

— Priya Chetty Rajagopal, Cubbon Park Canines

the scene along with Animal Birth Control NGO; the slab over the drainage was opened up and the puppies and the mother stray were rescued thereafter.

"The incident was brought to my notice by some of the residents. I informed the East zone

animal husbandry team and they dispatched a rescue team immediately. As there was no way out for the dogs to come out, the only option left was to break open the slab. Since we needed permission to break the slab, I called the BBMP assistant

executive engineer for permission; he agreed and the rescuers went ahead. The dogs would have died of suffocation, and starvation, if left in the drain for a few more days," animal activist Arun Prasad said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

Flash sit in

Ambedkar statue 'forgotten on R-day', say protestors



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Tension prevailed in front of the Vidhana Soudha on January 26 for some time when a group of people staged a flash protest and blocked traffic on Ambedkar Veedhi, upset with the fact that 'the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar was neglected and not felicitated on the occasion of the Republic Day'.

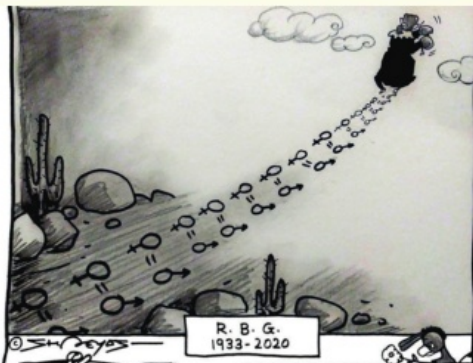
However, the issue was soon resolved amicably after six hours, when police officials joined the protestors to garland the statue of Dr Ambedkar. "This is the first time since the installation of Babasaheb Ambedkar's statue that was installed at the Vidhana Soudha," activist and advocate Narasimha Murthy who led the protest, said.

"This is shameful and condemnable that the government ignored the father of the constitution at such an important day, that too at the premises of the seat of power," Murthy further added.

The incident occurred when Murthy was returning home from work and noticed the statue with no garland: "I immediately informed the officials and sat on a dharna joined by a few students and like-minded people at the spot. Despite this, the officials neither arranged to garland the statue and, adding to the worst, even removed the ladder which was kept near the statue," said Murthy.

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3 THINGS TO DO



01 America in cartoons

If cartoons are your way to de-stress, check out Indian Institute of Cartoonists's showcase: America in cartoons, from Bill to Biden, an exhibition of cartoons and caricatures by New York-based cartoonist Shreyas Navare. The exhibition comprises 101 cartoons and caricatures drawn spanning five US Presidents from 1998 to 2022. This exhibition also includes artworks from Shreyas Navare's travels across various US states for his coverage of the 2012 and 2016 US Presidential Elections through the eyes of a cartoonist. **Where:** Indian Cartoon Gallery, Craig Park Layout; **When:** January 31 - February 12

02 It's snail mail!

Imagine receiving a letter from an anonymous sender. Imagine replying to this letter. An exchange that takes place by India post. See-Saw - a collaborative initiative by Sandbox Collective and supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore -- began as an exercise to see how we engage with the idea of the 'other'. This was an attempt to collectively reflect on themes of identity, prejudice, people and communities, and the results will be out on a website. The portal will have the 80+ artistic responses, notes and letters that were born from this exchange, courtesy the A 10-week artistic exchange between anonymously paired Bengaluru-based artists via snail mail. **Where:** sandboxcollective.org/see-saw **When:** Ongoing



03 Art attack

Learn how to paint and master some cool techniques with a professional artist Chandrima Mandal. You'll be guided on learning the layering technique in poster colours. It is a 3-layered painting which has a combination of brush painting and blending method. The stationeries required include: poster colours, paint brush - flat brush - minimum size 11, medium brush - size 6 to 9, thin brush - size 1 and 0, spare unused toothbrush, pencils, eraser. **Where:** Zoom **When:** Jan 29, 3 pm; **Register:** Rs 366, bookmyshow.com



ON A DOWNWARD JOURNEY

Cases drop by 30 per cent in many parts of the city; state government eyes relaxing of Covid-19 curbs

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Bengaluru on Thursday reported 17,717 cases, proving that cases are on a downward spiral. The highest daily tally was reported on January 20 (30,540 cases) and since then, cases have been fluctuating. BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta confirmed that there was a decline of 30 per cent in cases in the city.

The test positivity rate (TPR) is also on a decline. Bengaluru Urban which was once the top in the chart is now at the 18th position. As of January 26, Bengaluru's TPR was 18.53 per cent, much below the state's TPR (20.62 per cent). As of now, Mysuru is an area of concern as it has a 43.16 per cent TPR. Chamara-janagar is at the second position with 35.13 per cent.

An analysis of Covid case trends over the past week across all eight zones in BBMP limits has shown that there is a 30 per cent reduction in day-on-day case numbers. However, BTM Layout, Malleswaram, HSR Layout, Konanakunte wards are witnessing a higher caseload.

Primary and Secondary Edu-



A health worker conducts an RT-PCR test on citizens

“ Mobile triaging units shall focus on triaging 10-15 per cent of overall caseload and 100 per cent of all cases recommended for hospital/CCC admission shall be physically triaged on the same day

— Gaurav Gupta, BBMP Chief Commissioner

cation Minister BC Nagesh said that his department was ready to reopen schools in Bengaluru.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta directed officials to map the positivity rates of

Rapid Antigen Tests and RT PCR tests across all zones, and notify authorities if there was a spike. All cases that were contacted and marked for home isolation shall be discharged on the platform on the seventh day, he added.

“Mobile triaging units shall focus on triaging 10-15 per cent of overall caseload and 100 per cent of all cases recommended for hospital/CCC admission shall be physically triaged on the same day. So, identify the number of CCCs required based on the case load and current occupancy. Accordingly, redeploy staff from zero occupancy CCCs,” he said.

Curbs may be relaxed further

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said the state government will review the Covid-19 situation soon after obtaining the experts' committee report. “We (ministers) have discussed several issues including covid situation; how to manage it in the days to come, representations given by various organisations (for relaxations), regarding the functioning of schools and colleges among others,” Bommai said.

The State Government has also issued a circular saying that government offices are back to a six-day work week.

He added that after analysing the report, a meeting would be held in about three or four days and decisions will be taken. Last week, the state government had decided to lift the week-end curfew while deciding to continue the night curfew and all other covid curbs.

(With inputs from agencies)

Track electrification sees a major boost

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For long, Karnataka has been known to be a backward state as far as electrification of railway tracks was considered. However, South Western Railways (SWR) now claims that in the last 16 months, it has logged the maximum electrification of tracks with more than 598.7 RKM (route kilometre means the total distance covered by a train to reach its destination) of electrification.

A target of 692 RKM for electrification has been set for March 2022 in SWR. From 208 RKM in 2016 (five per cent of SWR network), electrified tracks saw a rise to 1,233 RKM (34 per cent of SWR network) presently up to March 2021. Electrification has now been completed between Hubballi-Ballari and Ballari-Rayadurga fully and the electrification between Hubballi and Bengaluru line is expected to be completed by March 2023. As per targets, by December 2023, all the major routes of SWR will be electrified.

Many trains go electric

South Western Railway has decided to run



train number 11312/11311 Hassan-Solapur-Hassan Daily Express with electric locomotives between Solapur-Yeshwantpur-Solapur. Earlier, this train was running with diesel locomotives from end to end. Similarly, Mys-

uru-Bagalkot-Mysuru-Basava Express will run with electric locomotives between Mysuru-Solapur-Mysuru. In South Western Railways in the last two financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21, 48 trains -- 24 in each year -- have been extended to run on electric engines.

Sanjeev Kishore, General Manager, SWR, said that in the current financial year 2021-22, 22 trains have already been converted to electric traction to run with electric engines so far and now, four will be implemented from January 28/29.

Running these four trains (in both directions) with electrical engines for a major part of the route is expected to save more than 10,000 litres of diesel every day. SWR is actively working to switch a minimum 10 more trains to electric engines in the next two months, with specific focus on sections where electrification has already been completed.

In the current financial year, 232 RKM of electrification has been completed so far, and South Western Railway is aiming to complete electrification of another 200+ RKM in next two months. From 200+ RKM in 2016, the electrified track on SWR has now risen to 1,452 RKM which is 40 per cent of the total route km of SWR.



BangaloreMirror

Cabbies up in arm against bike taxis

The drivers demand bike taxis to be stopped across Karnataka

Bangalore Mirror had reported on January 22 how cab drivers had earlier protested against 2-wheeler taxi services

Stop this ride

Auto drivers stage a protest against two-wheeler taxis in the city on Thursday. The drivers have been demanding a ban on two-wheeler taxis, claiming that they are affecting their livelihood. They claim that the pandemic has forced many of them into penury and at this time the presence of two-wheeler taxis is coming as a severe hit to their earnings.

At least try not to stab thy neighbour

Petty argument between two men turns bloody after one abuses the other's daughter

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A fight between two men got aggravated after one of them started to swear and abused the other man's daughter. When the latter asked not to bring his daughter or abuse her, the accused attacked him with a knife and fled.

Dinesh (name changed), a resident of Neelasandra, filed a complaint against his neighbour with the Ashok Nagar police on Wednesday. He said that on Tuesday night on his way home he noticed his neighbour's family fight-

ing. "I was passing by and I tried to pacify them when they started abusing me for no reason. I decided to walk home. As I left the fight, one of them started to bring my 18-year-old daughter's name in between and abuse her.

"I got angry and asked him not to talk about my daughter as she had nothing to do with them. He started to make inappropriate comments about her and I raised my voice when

I raised my voice and all of a sudden, he took out a knife and attacked me

—The stabbing victim



all of a sudden, he took a knife and attacked me on my head from behind. I had a severe injury and it started to bleed continuously. Seeing the blood, he left the place and I rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment," he said.

"They were fighting over a trivial row and it got aggravated after the accused started to speak ill about his daughter who is a college student. We are trying to trace the accused," said an officer.

CRIME FILES

Woman arrested over fake passport

The Byadarahalli police have arrested a woman from Bangladesh after she managed to obtain an Indian passport by furnishing fake government documents provided for Indian citizens.

The woman has been identified as Roni Begum. Police said that she had managed to sneak into the country through illegal routes around 15 years ago and was staying for some time in Mumbai. She had married an Indian man and even got her name changed.

Police said that the immigration officials caught her at the airport in West Bengal while she was trying to travel to Dhaka in Bangladesh using the fake passport. The matter was brought to the notice of the FRRO in West Bengal and simultaneously, the FRRO in Bengaluru was also informed as she had given the address of Bengaluru in the passport.

According to the police, after entering the country and reaching Mumbai, she was working in a dance bar. She then married a man identified as Nithin from Mangalore and she changed her name to Payal Ghosh. The two were staying in Byadarahalli police limits after their marriage in 2015 and she started to work as a tailor.

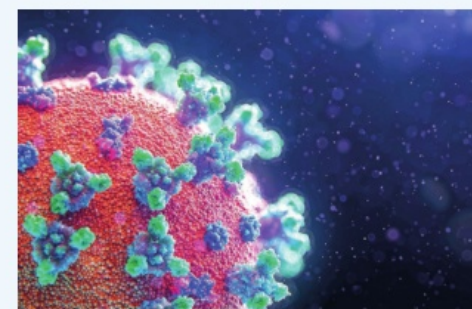
In January 2020, the Bengaluru FRRO had filed a complaint with the city police against her under the Passport Act and also for forgery.



BACK TO THE BASICS: COVID IS CAUSED BY A VIRUS

THE CLAIMS

A message circulated on social media claims that an autopsy report from Singapore has revealed that covid-19 is not a virus but a bacteria. The message also says that Singapore government authorities have changed the treatment protocols following the autopsy and have started treating covid-19 patients with aspirin.



SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

Aspirin is not a cure for covid-19 as the virus can't be treated with anticoagulants, government fact check agency, PIB Fact Check said in a tweet on Monday. In June 2021, the Singapore government issued a statement that all these claims are all false and the message did not originate from the Ministry of Health, Singapore. So once again: Covid is caused by a virus, not a bacteria. And it cannot be cured with anticoagulants like aspirin.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

TOP COMMENTS

Take all care, while we wait for end of wave three

Our story Bengalureans, keep calm and wait for the peak has got readers hoping. A user known as Pal writes on the Bangalore Mirror website, that we can only hope to come out of this wave unscathed. On Twitter, a user @im_mde writes, that's correct. Covid is not over yet. A reader Sahaydri writes, it is important to follow covid appropriate behaviour even as we wait for the wave to reach the peak as there is a need to be patient in the time of the pandemic. The memories of the second wave cannot have faded away so soon the reader says.



Marriage vow breach not cheating

The Karnataka High Court has said that a breach of promise of marriage by an individual can't be considered as a crime of cheating under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The allegedly in love with a woman for eight years and then had married another woman breaking the marriage promise.

The court further quashed an FIR against the individual and his family members lodged on the charges of cheating af-

ter committing to marry the woman. The bench headed by Justice K. Natarajan has given the order while taking up the petition filed in this regard by Venkatesh, a resident of K.R. Pura in Bengaluru.

"It is stated that the petitioner has violated the promise of marriage. But, it can't be considered cheating if a marriage promise is violated. The aspect of breaking of marriage can't be included in the purview of Indian Penal Code 415," the bench noted.

"Criminal case could be filed when a marriage agreement is made with the intention of cheating. But, it has not been established in this case that the petitioner has broken the marriage promise for the purpose of cheating. The girl has not shown anything of that sort

High Court says breach of promise of marriage can't be considered a crime under IPC

and it can't be a crime under IPC Section 420," the court further stated in its recent order.

A complaint was lodged against petitioner Venkatesh and his family members on May 5, 2020 by a woman, a resident of Rammurthynagar with the police.

She claimed that petitioner Venkatesh and she were in love for eight years and he had promised to marry her. She sought action against the petitioner as he had married another woman.

WEBHITS

3 most-read articles on the Mirror site

- Keep calm & wait for the peak
- Spacetime continuum
- Notice to tax defaulters

There's no space for feet

Incomplete work on CMH Road footpaths forces pedestrians to take the road

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The footpath on both sides of CMH Road has been inside-out for the past 8-10 months. Despite the completion of the work months ago, the footpath is yet to return to its former state.

Residents on CMH Road are asking for a simple walkable footpath with no bumps and craters. Being lively and packed with stores, people from the vicinity use the footpath to walk small distances. They say that it has become back-breaking work to manoeuvre through this path now. The situation has become an uphill task for senior citizens.

It has become difficult to walk on the pavement with the current state of the footpaths. "Pedestrians are forced to inconveniently walk on roads. It does not look like they are finishing the restoration work soon, as they have left it unfinished," said Vandana Rao, a resident.

The footpaths were dug up for a UFW project by BWSSB. Roughly 6,000 m of the area was dug up for the project. The UFW project was primarily aimed at reducing water loss while supplying water from River Cauvery to the city.

While the citizens could benefit from such projects in the years to come, they are currently faced with one issue -- bad footpaths. After the work was completed, the trench



The footpaths on CMH Road were dug up for a UFW project by BWSSB. Roughly 6,000 m of the area was dug up for the project

was filled with soil and abandoned in that state. The footpath is strewn with broken pieces of tiles and

mounds of soil leaving an uneven and strenuous path for pedestrians. According to BWSSB officials, the

“We have completed the restoration work. The BBMP has been paid to complete the repair of the road cuttings on the stretch.”

— Devaraj, BWSSB

restoration work has been completed and only some 'extra soil' needs to be removed to level the stretch. "We have completed the restoration work. It was brought to my notice that there are some surplus materials left which will be removed in 4-5 days. However, the BBMP has been paid to complete the repair of the road cuttings on the stretch," said UFW Chief Engineer, BWSSB, Devaraj. The issue of which department will fix the footpath is still not known. This is one of the major roads in Indiranagar. "The contractors have done such a shoddy job of restoration. They haven't removed the excess soil and haven't flattened the surface. We don't know when BBMP will fix the footpath," said Sneha Nandihal. She added that she had met with the contractors who also had assured her that the issue will be fixed in a few days.

When residents complained to the officials, they learnt that there is a plan to white-top the stretch. "These are solutions to unconnected problems. Residents should be consulted before making such decisions," noted Nandihal.

whatsapp
MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Stinky stretch

Banashankari



A ditch near Banashankari 3rd stage is filled with sewage and gives out a lot of stench. This could be a breeding ground for diseases. Poor barricading makes this a dangerous spot to pass.

Fix the road

Malleswaram



Damaged road with loose gravel on Malleswaram 5th cross creates a slippery surface, posing a threat for motorists. The authorities should fix it soon.

Debris point

Banashankari



A pavement beside KIMS compound in Banashankari is used to dump construction materials forcing walkers and joggers to use the road. This has to be cleared soon.

HUSH PUPPIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An FIR was filed against a resident in question at the JC Nagar police station, by Harish KB, member of Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). While this is one of the cases where animals were forced into drains, animal activists pointed to several incidents where dogs often got stuck in drains, as BBMP builds and closes drains haphazardly; activists demand the BBMP bring in changes to the drain design which can be beneficial to both people and animals.

Neelu Bhatt, animal lover and resident of Malleswaram, said many times she has come across dogs that were stuck in drains after civic works; all the openings will be sealed off and the citizens need to approach the engineers to come and break open the slabs to rescue the canines. "Dogs are very shy; they sleep in the drains during daytime and come out at

night. Whenever there is civic work happening, we do keep a watch. At least three times, dogs were stuck inside drains and we informed BBMP engineers. There are even instances where BBMP is putting grills even at the entry points through which dogs go inside for shelter. BBMP should redesign the drains." Priya Chetty Rajagopal of Cubbon Park Canines will shortly dispatch a letter to the BBMP requesting to redesign the drains.

"While it is important to close the drains to avoid flooding and stop people throwing waste, there has to be some way wherein BBMP needs to keep the drains open at both ends without sealing it. One of the slabs should be easily and readily removable," she said.

Going forward, animal activists will also meet the BBMP road engineering team in person to bring in a change to save the voiceless creatures and at the same time provide them shelter.

Ambedkar statue 'forgotten on R-day'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We pooled in money and then brought a garland, and were searching for the missing ladder to garland the statue. Ired by the state of neglect the statue was in on Republic Day, the protestors moved on the road and blocked the traffic to draw the attention of the govern-

ment. Soon, a few senior police officials rushed to the spot and convinced the protestors they would do the honours and finally around 8 pm, the statue was garlanded," Murthy told Bangalore Mirror.

Meanwhile, police officials refused to react to the incident and said that the issue was resolved amicably.

'Grama One' launched in 3K gram panchayats

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's ambitious programme 'Grama One', aimed at providing the government services at doorstep, was launched in 3,026 Gram Panchayats on Wednesday. It would be extended all over the state by the end of March, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced.

Speaking after launching the programme virtually in 12 districts, chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said that the 'Grama One' has been launched with an objective of taking the government services to the doors of the people without making them spend time and money.

The programme intends to provide Adhar Card, Ration Card and other services related to departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Revenue, Women and Child Welfare. It would also reduce the rush at Taluk offices and effect decentralisation of power, he said. The programme will provide "uninterrupted services" to the public with the aid of technology and modern equipment.

The service has been



launched in 3,026 Gram Panchayats of 12 districts.

It will restore people's faith in the functioning of the government through efficient services, chief minister Bommai said. Modern technology is playing a key role in taking the villages from Gram Swaraj to Gram Suraj. It is realising the ideals of Gram Swaraj of Gandhi and Gram Suraj of Vajpayee, Bommai said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai suggested the legislators and ministers to spread awareness about 'Grama One' among the people. About six lakh requests were received and services were provided during the experimental stage of the programme. Tahsildars and Assistant Commissioners play a key role in the success of 'Grama One', he said.

— Agencies

Life of luxury in prison: DIG-rank officer to look into case

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Following the alleged illegal activities inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank officer attached to the Prisons Department has been entrusted to submit a detailed enquiry report about the issue. Somashekar, the DIG who is presently posted in Belagavi prisons had previously worked in Parappana Agrahara as superintendent.

Two days ago, an old video clip of two undertrials at one of the cells depicting one of them, a notorious rowdy, getting royal treatment inside the barrack while he was in judicial custody three years ago, had gone viral. The video which is said to have been recorded in 2018, is suspected to have been recorded and leaked by a staffer who previously worked there to bring a negative image to the current staff. The staff seen in the video are said to be working in different jails across the state currently.

According to the prison records, the rowdy sheeter who is seen in the video has been released in 2019 and



he is said to have spoken to a vernacular news channel stating that mobile phones and other items are provided by the jail staff.

He even alleged that without the staff's notice, no illegal activity can happen inside the prison and the staff collect money from the prisoners on every Saturday.

The video is also suspected to have been captured by a mobile phone which was hidden and kept inside Narayana's cell either by him or his associate and the cops are inquiring into who would have taken the video and leaked it to the public.

Alok Mohan, DIG Prison, on the

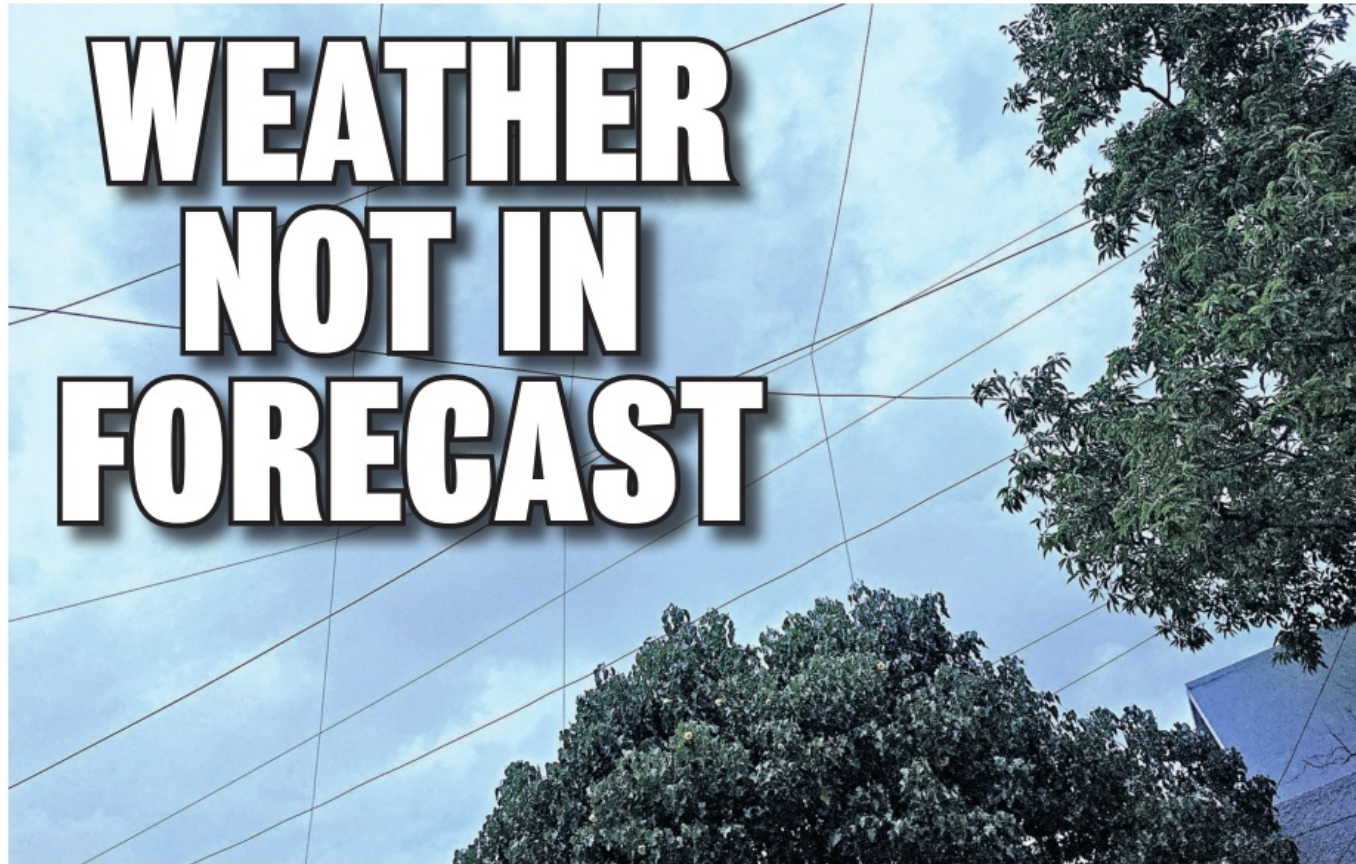
instructions of the Home Department has put DIG Somashekar on the job to conduct fair and transparent enquiry and to submit the report by the weekend.

The DIG is said to be visiting the jail premises on Thursday.

Earlier, when the present jail superintendent Ranganath took charge, he transferred a few staffers following which a five-page detailed letter from a prisoner about the illegal activities inside the jail became public and went viral. The current videos and the previous letters are suspected to have been leaked by one of the staffers who was transferred.

After unseasonal rain, experts say city's weather pattern is changing

WEATHER NOT IN FORECAST



₹17L damages to man who lost genitals in accident

The Karnataka High Court has ordered granting of Rs 17.66 lakh compensation to a man who lost his genitals in a road accident that rendered him permanently incapable of leading a normal married life. Petitioner Basavaraju had met with an accident 11 years ago in Raneben-nur town of Haveri district and suffered permanent damage to his genitals. Considering his plea for compensation, a division bench headed by Justices S.G. Pandit and A.R. passed the judgment. The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal had earlier fixed only Rs 50,000 compensation for the mishap and ordered the insurance company to pay Rs 3.73 lakh total compensation money inclusive of other claims to the victim.

Considering the loss to the petitioner, the High Court increased the amount to Rs 10 lakh and in total has ordered the insurance company to pay Rs 17.68 lakh as compensation to him. Though the petitioner had asked for Rs 11.75 lakh total compensation, the bench had fixed more compensation sympathising with his state.

Basavaraju was hit by a truck from behind when he was walking on the road in 2011. Considering all aspects of the case carefully, the bench opined that, the petitioner has lost possibility of getting married due to the impact of accident and will not have the comfort of marital life. His loss can never be compensated in terms of money.

Row over hijab: Students stick to their stand

The six students of government girls PU college in nearby Udupi district have turned down the suggestion of the college development committee that they opt for online classes if they are adamant on wearing hijab (Islamic headscarf) in the class room.

The girl students have been boycotting classes for the last four weeks as the college authorities refused permission for them to wear hijab inside class rooms. Addressing reporters in Udupi on Thursday, the students, who are staging the protest, said wearing hijab is their constitutional right and they are not willing to attend online classes which is 'discriminatory.'

Asked about other girls from the community attending classes without hijab, they said girls are not coming forward as they are scared of the problems they may face.

Education and rights are equally important, they said.

Udupi MLA Raghupati Bhat, also chairman of the college development committee, had on Wednesday said the education department had ordered a status quo on the dress code in class rooms. A high-level committee has been constituted by the department to study the dress code in colleges in other states. If they are persisting with their demand, they can choose online classes, he had said.

—PTI

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On Wednesday, Bengalureans woke up to chilly weather with dark clouds hovering in the sky. In a few areas, it seemed as if the monsoon was back. Many localities in the city experienced light rainfall, which is quite unusual for this season.

The reason for the light rainfall was due to a trough running 900 m above sea level. A few parts in Tamil Nadu received heavy rainfall, while there was light rainfall in Bengaluru and its neighbourhood.

G Srinivasa Reddy (Senior Consultant, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority), told BM, "We cannot expect widespread rainfall during this month but light showers cannot be ruled out. Though rainfall in January is unusual, the average rainfall for the month is around

2 cm for the whole month. This means, we have experienced light rainfall in January in the past."

Reddy said that the weather pattern was changing in Bengaluru. "Bengaluru received heavy rainfall in November last year, which was quite unusual. We are experiencing a few extreme events. We may expect these kinds of seasonal variations in the future as well. Those areas which used to experience frequent droughts may experience heavy rainfall."

Those areas which used to receive good rainfall in the past may see a decline. If we look at last year's annual rainfall in the State, it was 16 per cent excess. Sixteen per cent is a big departure

for an annual rainfall. It doesn't occur usually."

During summer, the weather-men are usually flooded with the question as to when it will rain. Now, it seems to be the reverse as many want to know when they will see the bright sunshine. Reddy said that currently, Bengaluru was still in the cold season.

"We can see a rise in temperature from February. The increase in temperature can be seen from Shivaratri (March 1, 2022), when we can see a big difference in the temperature as the mercury goes beyond 32 degree Celsius, as we will be heading towards peak summer."

Sadananda Adiga (Metoro-

logist from India Meteorological Department) said, "Bengaluru along with Kolar and Chikkaballapur received rainfall on Thursday. The lowest temperature for the State was reported from the Belagavi airport (13.8 degree Celsius). It will be a dry weather in other parts of the State while one can expect light rainfall in Bengaluru, Kolar and Chikkaballapur."

For the next 24 hours, we can expect a generally cloudy sky with light rain very likely in some areas. Fog or mist is very likely during early morning hours in some areas with maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 28 and 19 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In the next 48 hours, partly cloudy sky, fog or mist is likely during early morning hours. The only difference would be absence of rain with the day temperature slightly going up to 29 degrees and the night temperature dipping to 17 degrees Celsius.

Bengaluru along with Kolar and Chikkaballapur received rainfall on Thursday. The lowest temperature for the State was reported from the Belagavi airport

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I, Pradeep Kumar S/o Vasanthrao Kulkarni R/o B005, Adithi Bliss, Gunjur, Near Gunjur club, Bangalore- 560087 have changed my name to Pradeep Vasanthrao Kulkarni.

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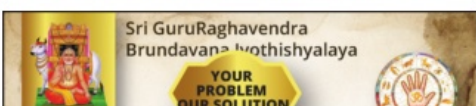
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Grassroots innovator is a proud Padma Shri

Dharwad man is known for growing tamarind with scarce but alkaline water; he also invented a crafty device to separate tamarind seeds

I Naveen Shivanna
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Waking up early is quite a tough task for many. So, many of us depend on alarms. However, an individual conjured up a device that could throw water on his face to wake him up.

This innovation was only the beginning as he went on doing a number of 'desi' innovations. Recognising his efforts, the Union Government has bestowed him with the prestigious Padma Shri award.

Abdul Khader Nadakattin is a serial grassroots innovator from Dharwad. His first innovation was a "A Wa(h)ter Alarm," which was his personalised attempt to solve his own nature of sleeping till late in the mornings. He tied a thin rope at the end of the key of the alarm in such a way that when the key unwound itself, the string tied to the key got wound.

The string was in turn tied to a bottle filled with water, when the key was completely unwound, the bottle would tilt, and the water would fall on his face. Later, he developed agri-technologies and implements, which addressed a variety of needs for the local people while maintaining relevance with modern agriculture.

Nadakattin, a serial innovator, and his prominent innovations include a device to separate tamarind seeds, ploughing blade manufacturing machine, seed cum fertiliser drill, water-heating boiler, an automatic sugarcane sowing driller and



Abdul Khader Nadakattin receives the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 by then President Pranab Mukherjee

a wheel tiller. All his innovations demonstrate principles of sustainability, cost-effectiveness, eco-friendliness, and most importantly a, social acceptance. His in-depth

knowledge of agro-climatic conditions and soil characteristics has made him an inspiration to other farmers in the country.

According to Press Information

Abdul's in-depth knowledge on agro-climatic conditions and soil characteristics has made him an inspiration to farmers in the country

Bureau, he was supported by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. Shri Abdul Khader Nadakattin was conferred with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 during NIF's 8th National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards by the then President of India Pranab Mukherjee.

True to his grassroots spirit and as a mark of respect for the award, he chose to walk barefoot and hence came to be known as the country's "barefoot scientist". Owing to his portfolio of innovations related to tamarind, people started calling him "hunase huccha", which means tamarind maniac.

It started with his success in growing tamarind with scarce but alkaline water and further graduated with experiments like the technique for harvesting tamarind from the tree and also the highly accepted machine to separate tamarind seeds. This inspired him to develop a machine for slicing tamarind.

In furtherance of success with tamarind, he came up with innovations to address agriculture operations like deep ploughing, sowing of seeds, and also fuel-efficient water heating boiler," a PIB release mentioned.

'Southern cities reeling under bad air quality'

In terms of air-quality and pollution levels, cities in south India are seen to fare better than their counterparts in north India, but things may not be so rosy anymore. Several cities in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Puducherry, suffer from pollution levels that exceed the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, a study by Greenpeace India reveals.

The latest report by Greenpeace India, analysing the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)'s data from ten major cities of southern India reveals that average pollution levels in the cities far exceed the latest WHO guidelines.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)'s data on ten cities - Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Mangalore, Puducherry, Coimbatore and Mysore - were selected and analysed based on the availability of data, population and monitoring station networks. It was found that despite pandemic-induced lockdowns and subsequent reduction in economic activities, the annual average values of PM2.5 and PM10 exceeded WHO's revised standards by many folds, a statement from Greenpeace India stated on Thursday.

Coimbatore, Bengaluru, Mangalore and Amaravati saw annual PM2.5 levels exceed WHO guidelines of 5 Aug/m3 by 6 to 7 times. While in Mysuru, Kochi, Chennai and Pondicherry, PM2.5 levels exceeded the guidelines by 4 to 5 times. In comparison, while annual PM10 levels in Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad exceeded the prescribed WHO guidelines of 15 Aug/m3 by 6 to 7 times, Bengaluru, Mangalore, Amaravati, Chennai and Kochi recorded data that exceeded the limit by 3 to 4 times. Mysore, Coimbatore and Pondicherry recorded PM10 data that exceeded the WHO guidelines for safe air by 2 to 3 times.

Avinash Chanchal, Campaign Manager, Greenpeace India says: "The data shows that lockdown is not a solution to air pollution. Relatively lesser economic activity and vehicles is also putting us in a dangerous position. We have to prioritize the immediate shift to clean energy and clean transport to stop more damage." "Making our urban transport networks accessible and sustainable can play a major role in combating India's urban air pollution crisis, he said.

- IANS



Legislature session to be held between Feb 14-25

I Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The legislature session will be held from February 14 to 25 and the Budget session will be held in the first week of March, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said. After the cabinet meeting, Bommai told mediapersons that many vital issues were discussed -- covid situation and management, problems being faced by schools and colleges.

The petitions from schools, colleges and organisations have been placed before the expert committee. Suitable decision would be taken based on the report from the experts, Bommai said.

BBMP elections

BBMP elections too came up for discussion. It has been decided to successfully face the BBMP election by deploying ministers from other districts too along with ministers of Bengaluru.



Publicity on 6 month achievements of government

A handbook on the six-month achievements of the government would be released at a function on Friday as it completes 6 months in office. Instructions have been issued to ministers to present the achievements of their respective ministries through print and electronic media by hold-

ing media conferences so that the performance could get wide publicity to reach the people, Bommai said.

BJP meet

BJP state president will soon convene a meeting to brainstorm on the issues related to party organisation and foster better coordination in the days ahead between the party and the government. It has been decided to work and march ahead unitedly, Bommai said. Reacting to objections raised by Congress leaders about huge gatherings at the Derby races violating covid guidelines, Bommai said, "there is no permission for large gatherings. Covid guidelines should be strictly followed. Suitable action will be taken if the guidelines have been violated." Replying to a question about Congress' allegations of discrimination in allocation of funds and the BBMP meetings being held with a motive to help BJP in BBMP polls, Bommai said, "the very purpose of Congress is to make allegations. Let them recall what they did when they were in power."

Covaxin, Covishield get new drug permission

Vaccines given regular market approval in the adult population subject to conditions, says Health Minister

#NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has now upgraded the permission for Covaxin and Covishield from restricted use in emergency situations to normal new drug permission in the adult population with certain conditions.

Taking to Twitter, the Union minister wrote, "The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has now upgraded the permission for COVAXIN and Covishield from restricted use in emergency situations to normal new drug permission in the adult population with certain conditions."

"The conditions include supply for programmatic settings including registration on the CoWin platform and to continue to submit safety data on a six-monthly basis," Mandaviya tweeted. The minister also said the government's drive for free covid vaccination will continue.

According to CDSCO, the proposals for regular market approval were reviewed by it in consultation with the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) for covid. The panel recommended updating the status of approval of Covishield and Covaxin from Restricted use in an Emergency situation to the New Drug permission as per rules in the adult population with conditions. The vaccines are for sale or for distribution under New



A nurse shows vials of Covishield and Covaxin during a vaccination drive

Drugs and Clinical Trials (NDCT) Rules, 2019 in adult population with the conditions that the firm shall submit data of overseas ongoing clinical trials of the product with due analysis on six monthly basis or when available, whichever is earlier.

Secondly, the vaccine shall be supplied for programmatic setting and all vaccinations in the country will be recorded on CoWIN and AEFI, AESI shall be monitored. The firm shall submit the safety data including Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) and Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESI) on six-monthly basis.

— ANI

S Jaishankar tests covid-positive

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said he has tested positive for covid-19. He urged all those who have come in recent contact with him to take suitable precautions. Earlier in the day, Jaishankar took part in a virtual event along with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. "Have tested Covid positive. Urge all those who have come in recent contact to take suitable precautions," Jaishankar tweeted.

— PTI

Tata Group takes over Air India, to get loans from SBI-led consortium

#New Delhi

A consortium of lenders led by State Bank of India (SBI) will soon provide loans to Tata Group for the operations of Air India as well as to retire the airline's high cost borrowings. After nearly 70 years, Tata Group on Thursday regained ownership of Air India. With the completion of the deal, the group will own 100 per cent stake in Air India, Air India Express and a 50 per cent shareholding in AISATS.

Bankers said the SBI-led consortium has agreed to grant both term loans and working capital loans depending on the airline's requirements. All large lenders, including Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Union Bank of India, are part of the consortium, they added. "Many banks have agreed for refinancing of Air India debt to Tatas and the process has begun," one of the bankers said.

Existing lenders who do not wish to participate in refinancing of debt to Tatas will get their money repaid through the refinanced amount, the banker said.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is among the entities that had given loans earlier



Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran at Air India office on Thursday

to loss-making Air India. Now, the IPO-bound LIC has decided not to extend more loans to the airline and will not participate in the current funding round led by the SBI, the bankers said. Talace Private Limited -- a subsidiary of the Tata Group's holding company Tata Sons -- on October 8, 2021, won the bid to acquire debt-ridden Air India. It had offered Rs 18,000 crore, including cash of Rs 2,700 crore which has now been paid to the government.

—PTI

'Arunachal teen handed over to Army by PLA'

#New Delhi

China's People's Liberation Army has handed over the missing teenager from Arunachal Pradesh to the Indian Army, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday.

The 19-year-old Miram Taron of Jido Village in Upper Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh was found missing on January 18.

In a tweet, the minister said due procedures are being followed including the boy's medical examination. "The Chinese PLA has handed over the young boy from Arunachal Pradesh Miram Taron to Indian Army. Due procedures are being followed including the medical examination," he wrote.

On Tuesday, the Union minister, who represents the state in Lok Sabha, had said the Chinese side

had conveyed to the Indian Army on January 20 that they had found a boy on their side and requested for further details to establish the identity. "To assist Chinese side in corroborating the identity, personal details and photo of the individual has been shared with the Chinese side by the Indian Army. Response from the Chinese side is awaited," Rijiju had said in a the statement put out on social media.

"Some people reported that Chinese PLA had taken him into their custody, it said.

Rijiju said since the individual was missing from an area close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army approached the Chinese side on January 19, asking for assistance in tracing and return of the individual.

Early signs of Covid cases plateauing reported: Govt

#New Delhi

Early indications of Covid cases plateauing have been reported in some places but the trend needs to be observed, the Union government said on Thursday whilst noting that 400 districts have logged over 10 per cent positivity rate in the week ending January 26.

Stressing the need to continue with precautions to curb the surge in infections, it noted that Karnataka,

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan were recording a high number of Covid cases and positivity.

Simultaneously, a decline in Covid cases and positivity rate have been observed in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Odisha, Haryana and West Bengal, the government stated.

Addressing a press conference here, Lav Agarwal, the joint secretary in the Health Ministry, said,

"Early indication of a plateau in cases are being reported in certain geographies. The trend needs to be observed and required precautions need to be continued."

"Top 10 states in terms of active cases contribute to more than 77 per cent of the total active cases in the country. Over 90 per cent of these active cases are under home isolation, indicating mild to moderate clinical severity," Agarwal said.

Squad picked: KL Rahul, Prasidh Krishna get the nod

#Bengaluru

The BCCI Selection committee named the squads for the ODI and T20I series against the visiting West Indies team with Karnataka's batsman KL Rahul being the Vice Captain of the Indian team in both formats. However, Karnataka's medium pacer Prasidh Krishna is in Indian squad for the ODI Series against the West Indies.

Originally the BCCI had planned

to hold the matches at six different venues. But due to Covid issues, all the three matches in the ODI Series will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 6, 9 and 11, 2022 while the three T20 Internationals will be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on February 16, 18 and 20, 2022 in an effort to avoid needless travel and



Batsman KL Rahul will play both formats; Medium pacer Prasidh Krishna is in squad for ODI series

possible problems that could crop up.

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah released the list which also mentioned that Rahul will be available only from the 2nd ODI onwards.

"Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami have been rested from the series. KL Rahul will be available from the 2nd ODI onwards while Ravindra Jadeja is undergoing his final stage of recovery post his knee injury and will not be available for

the ODIs and T20Is. Axar Patel will be available for the T20Is," Jay Shah said. Skipper Rohit Sharma is back after rehabilitation after recovering from his injury and will lead the team in both formats with KL Rahul being the Vice Captain in both formats. Prasidh Krishna played in the third and final ODI against South Africa at Cape Town and bagged 3 for 59 though India lost the match and the series 0-3.

SPORTS



BEST OF DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr. Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am 60 years old, and have problems slipping my foreskin back and forth. Earlier, I had no such problems, and I would masturbate and have sex with my wife quite regularly. I was under treatment for cellulites on my leg, which, my doctor said, was due to a wound on the leg and high blood sugar. The treatment for the same lasted a month, and since I had managed my diabetes well with diet and regular medication, I have no problems on my leg at the moment. But the foreskin of my penis has become very itchy and sticky. Please suggest an ointment or medication, or a skin specialist who will be able to set things right.

You could ask the doctor who treated you. If that is not possible, purchase Betnovate N cream. Apply it on the penis and around it. If you could mention the area you stay in Mumbai, I could recommend a skin specialist.

2 I am 54 years old and my wife is 46. She has missed her periods since January. We use a condom while having sex, as we are afraid of her conceiving. But neither of us wants to have a baby right now. Can we enjoy sex without using a condom? Will it lead to pregnancy? Our children are grown up and we don't want any more. It would also be embarrassing for us to become parents at this age. What should we do? She is probably entering menopause. It is advised that even though her periods may have stopped, you should continue to closely follow her menstrual cycle for at least a year. Instead of using a condom, she could use an oral contraceptive pill which would be available at the chemist whenever intercourse is desired.

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Destress with yoga

The asanas will help you keep anxiety at bay

Aishwarya Acharya
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Physical injuries, diseases of the body and similar ailments are easily diagnosed. This is a simple task due to their symptoms, and visible signs. But on the other hand, mental health disorders like depression and anxiety are far more complex to diagnose or understand unless the individual voluntarily seeks out help. There are millions all over the world suffering silently from anxiety, depression, and suicidal tendencies.

Fortunately, growing awareness on this subject is being seen thanks to the media focus showing up for mental health and highlighting the importance of this issue. Through all the various social media forums, public health platforms and other counselling agencies, there is now a more sincere effort to address the issue of mental health issues.

Yoga is strongly recommended to offset the illnesses that plague both mind and body. Yoga is like the strong foundation that a building needs to withstand all kinds of weather. Yoga is that anchor which keeps us connected to the present moment through greater awareness of our own breath. Practice the following asanas holding each pose for

15-20 seconds. Breathe slowly and navigate safely into and out of the pose. Himalayan Siddha, Grand Master Akshar, shares nine yoga asanas that will help you calm your mind, anxiety and stress.

Balasana – Child's pose

Formation of the posture:

- Gently drop your knees down.
- Bring your pelvis to rest on heels.
- Do not place the toes on top of the other, instead right and left must be next to each other.
- Stretch your arms forward and rest your forehead down.

Sukhasana – Happy pose

Formation of the posture:

- Sit in an upright position
- Stretch legs out
- Cross your legs one atop the other
- Place your palms on the knees

Vrikshasana

Formation of the posture:

- Begin in Samasthithi.
- Place your right foot on your left inner thigh.
- Find your balance; join your palms in Pranam Mudra at your heart chakra.

Paschimottanasana – Seated forward bend

Formation of the posture:

- Begin by stretching your legs forward
- Exhale, bend forward and place your upper body on your lower

body.

- Try to touch your knees with your nose.

Dhanurasana

Formation of the posture:

- Begin by lying down on your stomach
- Bend your knees and hold your ankles with your palms
- Lift your legs and arms as high as you can

Halasana

Formation of the posture:

- Lie on your back with palms beside your body
- Press your palms into the floor to lift your legs up and drop them behind your head
- Use your palms to support the back if needed

Ardha Pincha Mayurasana – Dolphin pose

Formation of the posture:

- Begin by placing your elbows and palms on the ground
- Spread them shoulder-width apart and point your fingers forward
- Walk your toes towards your elbows while keeping your legs straight
- Point your pelvis up and focus at a point ahead
- Raise one leg as high as possible
- Shift your bodyweight entirely to your arms and raise the other leg
- Join your legs and point your toes upward

- Align your feet, pelvis and your waist
- Use your core, shoulder and arm muscle strength to maintain balance and remain in the posture

Sarvangasana

Formation of the posture:

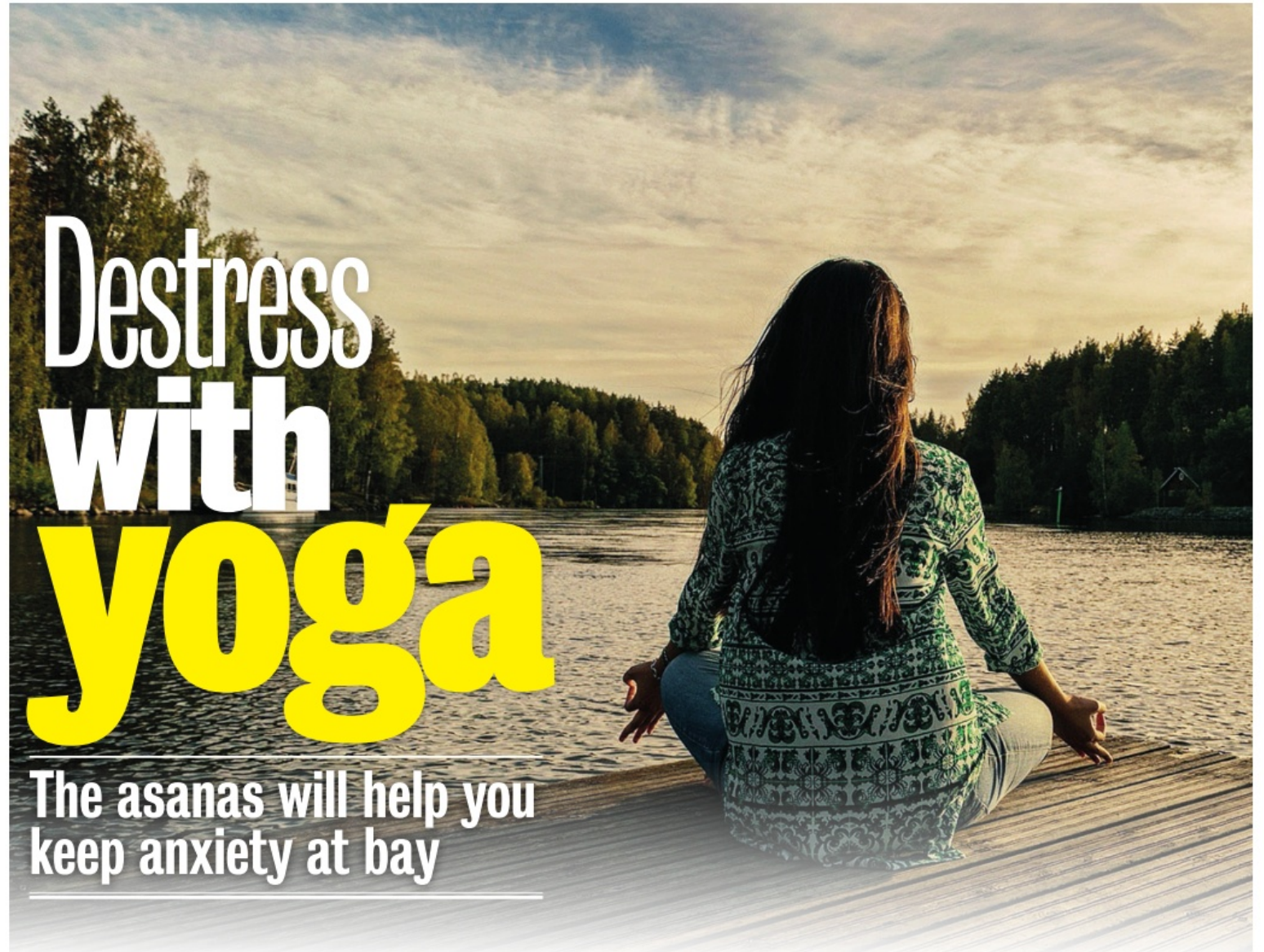
- Lie on your back
- Lift your legs off the floor and then lift your pelvis slowly
- Support your back with your palms.
- Align the shoulder, torso, pelvis, legs and feet.
- Focus your gaze towards your feet.
- Word of Advice If you have lumbago, neck pain, spondylitis and high blood pressure, please do not practice these postures.

Anandasana

Formation of the posture:

- Lie down on your back. Stretch out your arms.
- Close eyes
- Keep your palms facing up.
- Inhale deeply and fill your lungs with air, exhale and relax the body

Yoga is a powerful tool for transformation that rewires how our brain responds to situations. Rather than accumulate stress, yoga teaches us acceptance and how to let go. This allows us to live in a state of lasting contentment through mental well-being, happiness, joy and fulfillment..



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Friday, January 28, 2022

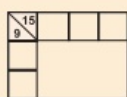
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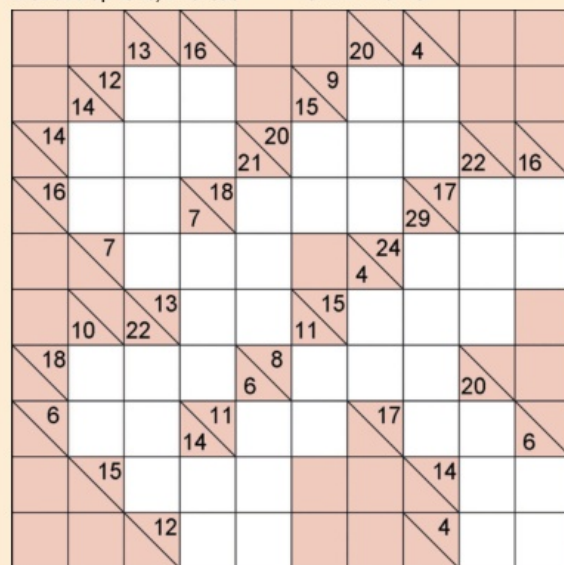
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

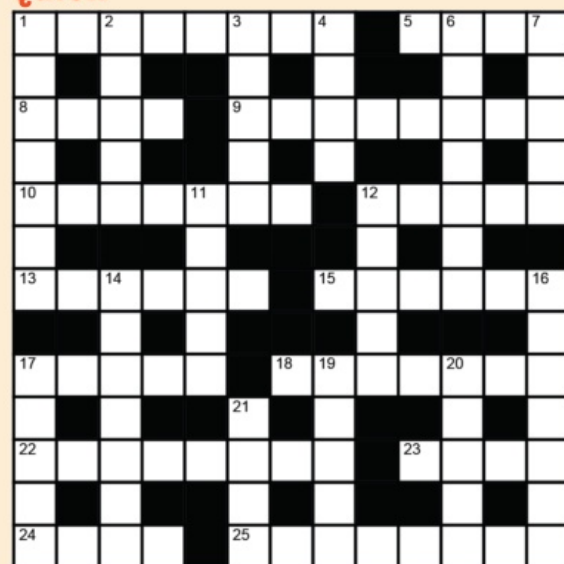


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Think carefully about (8)
- 5 Stinging insect (4)
- 8 King of beasts (4)
- 9 From year to year (8)
- 10 Badly brought up, uncouth? (3-4)
- 12 Share certificate (5)
- 13 Title role for Rowan Atkinson (2,4)
- 15 Barrister (6)
- 17 Blots out (5)
- 18 Finishes off the matter? (5,2)
- 22 Breaks into fragments (8)
- 23 Norse deity (4)
- 24 Finished (4)
- 25 Expands, dilates (8)

DOWN

- 1 Ca in the periodic table (7)
- 2 Sound like hostile or angry dog (5)
- 3 Astound (5)
- 4 One in Bonn (4)
- 6 Hypersensitive reaction (7)
- 7 Honour a debt? (3,2)
- 11 Harvests (5)
- 12 La ____: The Milan opera house, one of the largest in the world? (5)
- 14 Turn "a bridge" around to get a popular road (7)
- 16 Misses again (7)
- 17 Portuguese explorer ____ da Gama (5)
- 19 Garden flowers (5)
- 20 Car style (5)
- 21 Sell (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS G
RFV GMDQU NX I QMMONBZ
QXIX IBU ZNJVX YIAO RM
VJVDI PIB RFV DVLQVARNMB
ML FNX MGB LIAY.



Linemaro

Speak of the devil...or should I say angel?



Mindchow

Massage is the only form of physical pleasure to which nature forgot to attach consequences



Joke of the day

Confucius says: Man who leap off cliff jump to conclusion

Loop

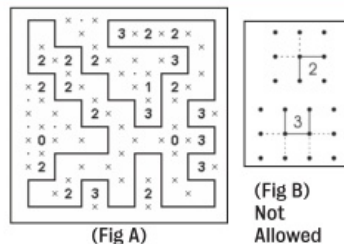
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How to begin:

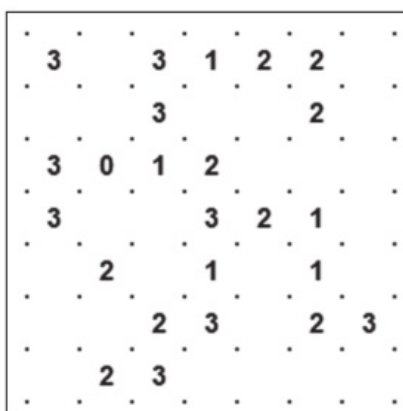
Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

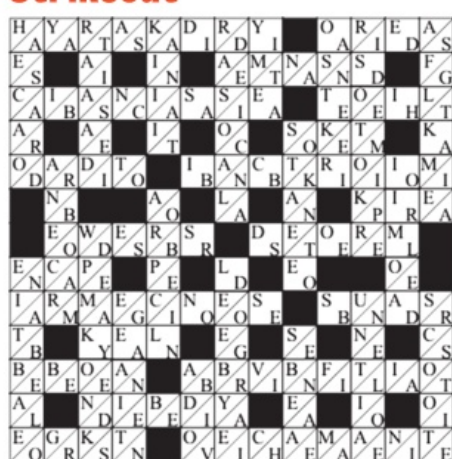


(Fig A)

(Fig B)
Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

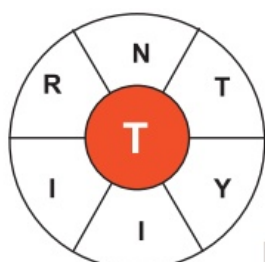
- 1 Ascot; 6 Amino;
- 7 Evert; 8 Go vie;
- 9 Blade

DOWN

- 1 Broca; 2 O Mage;
- 3 Vilna; 4 Is eve;
- 5 Ted to

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

= 4

= 19

= 15

= 15

= 15

= 15

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Handle is lower. 2. Apron is longer. 3. Bottom of shirt is different. 4. Counter is not as wide. 5. Fridge door is different. 6. Cap is moved.

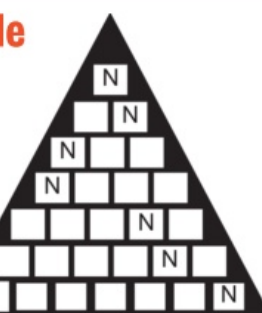
Riddler

On July 7th, I had a most unusual day. I woke up at exactly 7:07, stumbled to my refrigerator and had a 7up. I got dressed, went downstairs, and caught the number 7 bus to go to my office on 77th street. While sitting in my office on the 7th floor, it dawned on me how my day was going so I called my bookie and placed a \$777 bet on the number 7 horse in the seventh race, whose name was Seventh Heaven, to win. Do you know what happened?

Alpha triangle

- 1 One of the poles
- 2 Not out
- 3 Nothing in Laredo
- 4 Pedicurist's target
- 5 Jungle vine
- 6 Spanish lady in the US?
- 7 Riga native

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



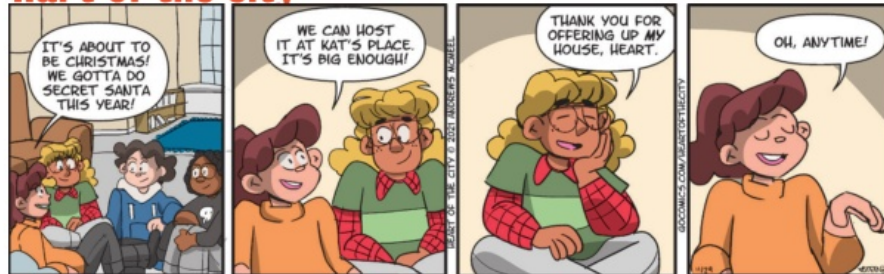
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



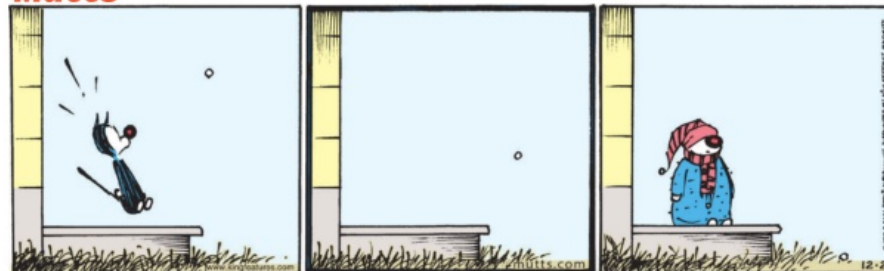
Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, blessings from the moon may make you happy. You may help needy people. You are likely to analyse yourself and accept mistakes in your personal life. Faith in the relationship may improve. This may boost confidence in the relationship. Disputes between partners may resolve now.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you are blessed by the moon. You are likely to have inner strength; you may be able to make some difficult decisions at work. You may be busy in social get-togethers, which may expand your network. Your network may benefit in the near future in terms of work. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, at the beginning of the day, you may not be focused on your work. But, with the help of elders' blessings, you may control this messy situation. You may easily find the resources, which might be important for completion of a project. Your sources of income are likely to be increased; your losses may convert into profits. This may boost your financial health.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may feel healthy; old health issues may resolve now. You may win some litigation. You have full control over your opponents and business rivals. Your money, which was stuck, may get recovered now, which may boost your liquidity. You may get new responsibilities at work, which will give you benefits in the near future.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may be busy with family; you may also plan for your kid's academics. You may spend money in buying some artefacts and creative stuff to renovate your house. You may plan to go for short trips for kids' academics. Kids' education may make you upset. You are advised to avoid any type of addiction, otherwise it may create some disturbance in the domestic life.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you will expect some big orders from overseas clients. This will increase liquidity in the business. You are likely to meet some influential person, who may help you to grow your business. Your bonding with the boss may become strong. You may expect some promotions because of hard work. Your prestige may increase now.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

It's a mixed day. You may be busy with kids' issues. Couples may welcome a newborn. Couples trying for a kid, can hear some good news. Wisdom may settle disputes in business and social life. Students may plan for overseas education. Natives in jobs may make some plans for higher studies for a good career.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you are blessed by the moon. With the help of courage, you may be able to make good plans and may implement them efficiently. You are advised to control overexcitement, else you may make some mistakes. You are advised to read documents before making a signature. Your rivals and opponents are now under control.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you are blessed by your elders, which may add patience to your thought process. You are likely to be happy and calm. You may plan to visit a spiritual place, seeking peace of mind. You may also donate some money to a spiritual place for development. There might be some chances for overseas travel.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may feel disappointed at work. You are not able to enjoy your life at any moment. You may face some losses in property-related matters. It is advised to postpone investments for a while, otherwise you may face losses. You are also advised to take care of your parents' health.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, your old health issues may arise. Anxiety and restlessness may make you upset. You are likely to be distracted from your goals. You may waste your precious time doing worthless tasks. You are advised to control your spending on worthless stuff; it may affect your financial health.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may feel dull. You may also face some health issues, which may affect your day-to-day work. You may find yourself under a mysterious fear, which may make you sensitive and emotional. You are advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are also attracted to the occult. You are advised to visit some religious place.



KIDZONE



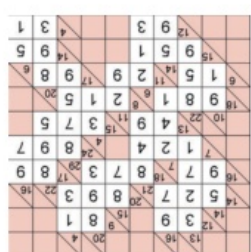
Srila B, 8 Years, Sophia High School



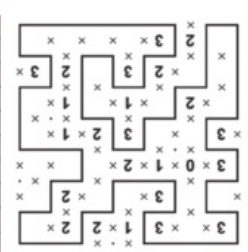
Diya G Hiremath, 8 Years, Rayan International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



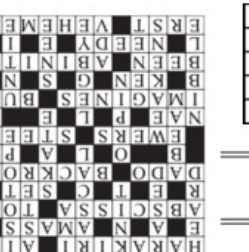
SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS' EYE



RIDDLER

Say no to Pushpa? They did

5 actors who were offered the film before Allu Arjun and Rashmika

Allu Arjun starrer 'Pushpa' has emerged as one of the biggest hits in recent times. Not just the original Telugu drama, but even the film's dubbed Hindi version earned big at the box office. Beyond Allu Arjun's shining act as a smuggler, his chemistry with Rashmika Mandanna is being massively lauded by fans. Interestingly, 'Pushpa' was offered to these five actors before Allu Arjun and Rashmika, take a look:

Samantha
 Samantha Ruth Prabhu made temperatures soar with her performance in the special song 'Oo Antava'. Her ravishing style and stunning dance moves have taken the internet by storm. According to a news portal, Samantha was offered the lead role of Srivalli in 'Pushpa' but eventually it was Rashmika Mandanna who bagged the part.

Disha Patani
 There was a strong buzz that director Sukumar was planning to rope in Disha Patani for 'Pushpa'. The makers were reportedly in touch with the actress for a special song wherein she would shake a leg with Allu Arjun. It is unclear why Disha didn't end up with the song, which eventually landed with Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Mahesh Babu

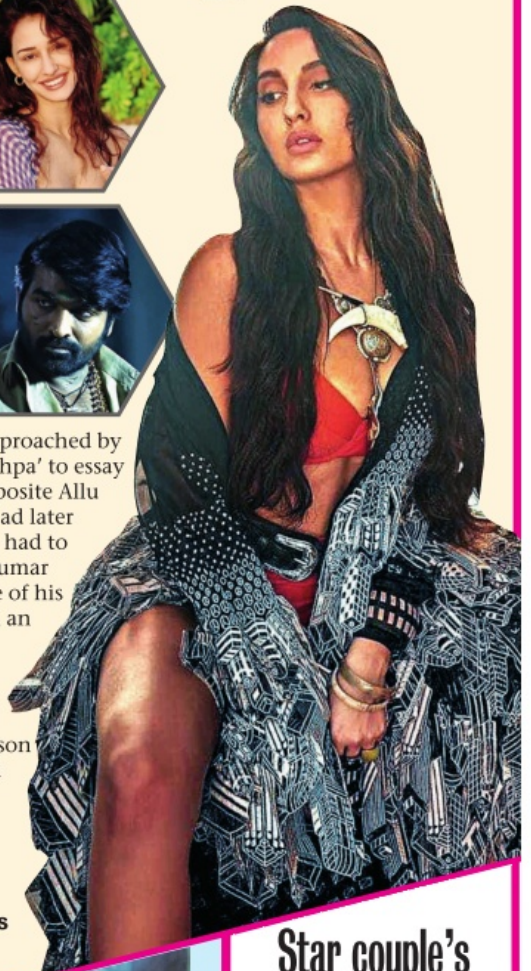
Allu Arjun does complete justice to the character of Pushpa and seems like a perfect fit. But turns out he was not the original choice of the makers. Director Sukumar had first approached Mahesh Babu to play the lead role in this action entertainer. However, the duo reportedly had creative differences and 'Pushpa' eventually emerged as Allu Arjun's biggest hit. Praising Allu Arjun's performance, Mahesh Babu had shared on Twitter, "@alluarjun as Pushpa is stunning, original and sensational... a stellar act."

Nora Fatehi

Nora Fatehi has several foot-tapping numbers to her credit and the makers of 'Pushpa' were keen to cash in on her success with their entertainer. However, the actress demanded a whopping fee for her performance. According to a news portal, Nora Fatehi demanded that she be paid Rs 2 crore for the dance song. The makers didn't give in to the demand and roped in Samantha, who floored everyone with her performance in 'Oo Antava'.

Vijay Sethupathi

Vijay Sethupathi was approached by the makers of 'Pushpa' to essay the antagonist opposite Allu Arjun. The actor had later confirmed that he had to opt out of the Sukumar directorial because of his busy date diary. In an interview, Vijay Sethupathi had stated that he had conveyed his call sheet issues in person with Sukumar and explained why he couldn't do the movie. Kannada actor Dhananjaya ended up playing the part. —ETimes



Star couple's fans worried they not getting time together



After getting married in December last year, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal returned back to work to fulfill their commitments. Even for their honeymoon, the couple didn't get much time as they directly jetted off to the Maldives from their wedding venue. On January 27, Katrina was spotted at the airport while leaving for her shoot and on the other hand, Vicky was seen returning from Indore after a shoot.

Katrina was seen heading to London to shoot for her project. While Vicky was recently seen shooting for his next with Sara Ali Khan in Indore. VicKat's fans are upset that they are not getting enough time together.

Charlie 777 is about a love-hate bond between man & dog

Rakshit Shetty's pan-India movie "Charlie 777" was scheduled to release in January, but due to covid-19, it was postponed. Now the team is planning to release the movie in the first week of February. The film received a U/A censor certificate. Director Kiran Raj said, "I am very excited about how the audience will receive the movie. Covid-19 pushed back the release of many movies. We have to plan accordingly. We will get a clearer picture of who is distributing it and the release date soon."

Rakshit Shetty, a versatile actor, and experimenting filmmaker, is will portray the love of animals in the movie. The teaser and songs released in many languages along with Kannada, became very popular. Most Kannada filmmakers are confidently jumping into new experiments. After the musical hit Kirik Party and action thriller Avane Srimannarayana, Shetty will tell a new story. A dog plays an important role in the film. The dog was trained and is a professional actor in the movie.

The movie is about a love and hate relationship between a young



man and a dog. How both are connected and how they will develop a bond in their circumstances is the plot. The movie is filmed in Mangaluru, Mysuru, and some places in North India. Charlie, a dog, is in a leading role in the movie along with Rakshit Shetty. This has created curiosity among the audience. Director Kiranraj is debuting with this movie. Shetty will produce this movie under the Paramvah banner. Sangeetha Sringeri is the leading role along with Shetty. Child artistes Sharvari and Pranya too feature in the movie.

—Prakash VL

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code



Just married

Mouni Roy and Suraj Nambiar got married on Thursday. Here's a look at all the celebrations for the beautiful couple's big day

